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NEWS RELEASE

California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER ISSUES \$3.9 MILLION IN COMPLAINTS FOR WATER QUALITY PERMIT VIOLATIONS

SACRAMENTO – The communities of Riviera West and Donner Summit face penalties of \$3,945,000 and \$49,000 respectively for numerous violations of permitted effluent limits and monitoring requirements at their wastewater treatment plants.

The Assistant Executive Officer of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board issued Administrative Civil Liability Complaints for assessment of mandatory minimum penalties (MMPs) in both instances. These Complaints may be considered at the Central Valley Water Board's regular public meeting on February 5 or 6, 2009.

The Riviera West Mutual Water Company in Lake County faces an MMP of \$3,945,000 for effluent limit violations and failure to submit monitoring reports for the period of January 1, 2004 through July 1, 2007. The one monitoring report that was submitted during this time period showed a violation of the bromodichloromethane effluent limitation.

Riviera West is required to submit periodic monitoring reports, which are designed to show whether or not the waste has been treated adequately to comply with the conditions of the permit. Without the monitoring reports, it is impossible to determine if the discharger is in compliance with its permit. The California Water Code requires MMPs of \$3,000 for each 30-day period in which a report was not submitted. Most of this mandatory penalty is for not submitting monitoring reports. Wastewater generated at the domestic drinking water plant is discharged directly into Clear Lake.

Donner Summit Public Utilities District faces a total of \$49,000 in penalties. Of this amount, \$24,000 is in the form of MMPs for violations of the nitrate and ammonia effluent limitations that occurred at the wastewater treatment plant from January 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. An additional \$25,000 in discretionary penalties was assessed because the District did not comply with its time schedule order to upgrade the treatment plant to meet the nitrate effluent limitation. The nitrate concentrations in the wastewater contributed to algal growths in the South Yuba River, in violation of the receiving water limitations.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.